

UNIVERSITY MISSOURIAN

The Evening Daily of the University of Missouri and Columbia published by the students in the School of Journalism at the University of Missouri.

J. HARRISON BROWN

Manager



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Entered at the postoffice of Columbia, Mo., as second-class mail matter.

Two Dollars a Year by Carrier or Mail.

Editorial office—Switzer Hall; phone 274. Business office—Virginia Building, downstairs; phone 55. Address all communications to UNIVERSITY MISSOURIAN, Columbia, Missouri.

It is of course perfectly natural that the youngest member of the United States Senate should have the mumps just at this time. He is known as the "infant" and children always have that disease about this time in the year.

MISSOURI WANTS THE BEST.

The mural decorations for Missouri's new capitol will picture the history, scenery and commercial progress of the state. Although outside artists may be considered to do the work, the preference will be given to Missouri artists.

This will be all right if it is absolutely certain that the Missouri artists chosen are capable. Mural painting is one of the most difficult branches of art, and few men there are who master it.

In the United States there are a very few men who are acknowledged superior in this line of work. They have done a great deal of decorating of statehouses and other public buildings. Their paintings will last as works of art.

With the new capitol being made "best" in every other feature, its decoration must not be let fall below the standard. If, when the times comes to choose the artist, no Missouri painter can be found who really is a master of this branch of art, super-patriotism should not be allowed to creep in and give the local man the preference over one of these others. Missouri wants the best.

EDUCATION—WHAT IS IT?

A good merchant takes an inventory occasionally to determine where he stands. Students can well afford to do likewise.

When you are summing up your assets, you will come to this—you are getting an education. But what does that mean? Does the more or less artificial method of classwork constitute an education? Does education embrace only that which you get from professors and textbooks?

If you want some advice on the problem, we offer the definition of Dr. C. A. Ellwood in the opening chapter of one of his books on sociology: "Education is not simply the art of developing the powers and capabilities of the individual; it is rather the fitting of the individual for efficient membership for proper functioning, in social life." Here is something for the "grind" to think upon. Is it worth while to come to the university and bury one's self in books? Is an "E" valuable if the winning of it makes it possible for the winner to mingle with his fellow students?

Some students say that they do not have time to get into social life at all. The great majority of students who do not attend church or take any part in religious work give as their excuse that they do not have time. Such a plea is different only in degree, not in kind, from that of the business man who says that his work monopolizes his time.

Of course, there is the other extreme where the college life consists chiefly in dances, socials and loafing. Such students are perhaps learning human nature but they are neglecting the side of training their own powers and capabilities.

It all comes down to one thing. There is no need of going to either extreme. It is possible to find a middle course and take an active part in every phase of university life. He may never get better than an "M" but he is best fitting himself for citizenship and for proper functioning in social life. It is for this reason that so many brilliant students, makers of high grades, do not "make good" in real life.

Refuse to allow any one side of your life to take all of your time.

GRADE SYSTEM WINNING FAVORS

Prof. Meyer's Plan Adopted by Other Schools Throughout Country—But Some Still Call It "Ridiculous"

"I told my faculty about the scientific grading system used by the University of Missouri just as carefully as I could, but they laughed at me. They said it was ridiculous! How did you succeed in inducing the faculty of your university to use it, Professor Meyer?"

That is what a South Carolina educator said to Prof. Max Meyer of the department of experimental psychology when they met at a scientific meeting in a southern city one day last fall. Professor Meyer, in discussing the extension of the system of grading used here, mentioned this incident.

"I told him I did not know," said Professor Meyer. "I could only say it was a miracle. I do not claim any superior credit. I just explained it to the faculty five years ago, and they said, 'It is good. We will adopt it.'"

The South Carolina man is only one of many who have investigated this system and are seeking to have it introduced in their own universities, colleges and even high schools. But, like him, most of them have encountered the opposition which is accorded to nearly all departures from conventional methods. "But when they understand our system, they favor it," said Professor Meyer.

Professor Meyer has letters of inquiry from all over the United States and even from foreign lands. One comes from an official of the Ecole des Sciences de l'Education, at Geneva, Switzerland. Other representative inquiries come from Amherst College, Northampton, Mass.; Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.; Lawrence College, Appleton, Wis.; Baldwin University, Baldwin, Kan.; University of Chicago; University of Cincinnati; Trinity College, Durham, N. C.; Patonburg, Pa.; High School; University of Vermont, Burlington; State Normal and Industrial School, East Radford, Va.; Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.; State University of Kentucky, Lexington; James Milliken College, Decatur, Ill.

A system closely resembling that of the University was adopted in the University High School five years ago at the time of the change in the University grading system. The Columbia public schools also use the University system. "Several other schools throughout Missouri have adopted the system," said Prof. J. D. Elliff, state

inspector of schools, "but I cannot recall which ones."

Ohio University and Iowa State University were seriously considering the adoption of the system and may have installed it by this time.

The history and principles of the grading system of the University of Missouri are explained by Prof. A. L. Hyde of the School of Engineering in a recent bulletin of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education.

The first scientific study on the subject of college grades was published in 1905 by Prof. J. McKeen Cattell of Columbia University. Prof. Winfield Scott Hall published "A Guide to the Equitable Grading of Students," in 1906. Then Prof. Max Meyer made an extensive investigation of the grades assigned during a period of five years, and in 1908 he explained his conclusions to the faculty and proposed the grading system which is used today. The faculty talked it over. They decided the proposed system was good and adopted it.

For a while the system used here was unique. Instructors who came here from other universities had never heard of it. They shook their heads dubiously and didn't know whether they liked it or not. But with increasing familiarity the popularity of the system has grown.

Students who come to the University of Missouri from other states often say: "Oh, yes, I heard about your odd grading system before I came here. Very interesting isn't it?"

Now it is but a question of time, say those well informed on the subject, till the percentage system will be a thing of the past and scientific methods will be installed in all educational institutions.

SEVENTH COLUMN

The Kaiser has forbidden his soldiers to wear those tooth-brush style mustaches. His style of man wears a mustache that can be seen as well as felt. Which means that no one of the campus producers of upper-lip decorations will ever measure up to the German Emperor's idea of a man.

New York wonders at the seeming paradox that an angel-faced boy has

been arrested thirteen times for petty misdemeanors. Don't they know in New York that the devil has angels, too?

He Put Pun in Punk.

Conversation at a soda fountain between two students who had bet treats on a basketball game:

"Thanks for the treat."

"What treat?" This from the one who had not paid.

"Oh, the mis-treat."

"But I meant to treat you."

"Well, thanks for the treat-ment." (Quick, the asbestos curtain.)

We tried a long time to find a joke in the fact that the United States has abolished pay day for its soldiers, but we have decided that it is no joke.

From Pana, Ill., comes the story that a man there coughed up a snake in a fit of coughing. He believes that he swallowed that same snake two years ago. He says he has been bothered some since then. S. C. can easily explain this phenomenon. Pana is a town of about 7,000 souls and twenty-three saloons. Figure it out for yourself.

Uncle Sam has withdrawn from competition with the stork. Babies and other live stock cannot be carried by parcel post. The only living thing that can be sent is the queen bee.

A blacksmith 95 years old, who is in love with a girl just 74 years old, has asked her to wait until he can earn enough money for two to live on. Hope springs eternal-tra-la.

If it wasn't for the fact that a similar Friday, the thirteenth, is coming next month, we would say just how lucky we were to get by that day. We took particular notice that only one unlucky thing was discovered happening on that day and that was fortunate in a way. A man was arrested for forgery just as he was about to commit suicide.

Slippery Etiquette.

We have been asked to give a few rules of etiquette particularly appropriate in slippery times.

In the first place, never allow the lady to sit down first. That may be the rule in the ball-room, where the

While the Snow Melts

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